

Children's Services

Advice for parents whose child is having an operation

Your child has been admitted to the ward to have an operation under a general anaesthetic. This could be for either planned surgery or due to an accident or an emergency.

What will happen before my child has their operation?

- You will be seen by a surgeon and an anaesthetist who will assess your child.
- Your child will have a special cream applied to the back of their hands which numbs the sensation in this area. This is in preparation for a cannula. A cannula is a very thin plastic tube that sits in the vein and allows medicines or fluid to be given directly into your child's body. When the cannula is inserted a needle is used to prick the skin. Then the cannula is taped down securely and the needle thrown away.
- Your child can wear his/her own pyjamas or will be given a special gown to wear for the operation.
- When it is time to go to the operating theatre, an orderly will push your child there in their bed or cot. If you have a young child who wants to be carried, that is fine.
- Your nurse will accompany you and the orderly to the anaesthetic room. A play specialist can also join you in the anaesthetic room if your child is worried or anxious.

What happens in the anaesthetic room?

- Both parents can walk to theatre but only one parent may stay in the anaesthetic room until your child is asleep. This is due to lack of space in the anaesthetic room.
- Your child will go to sleep either by having anaesthetic gas through a face mask or anaesthetic medicine given into a vein through the cannula in the back of their hand.

What happens when my child is asleep?

- Once your child is asleep you will be shown to paediatric recovery (on level three near main theatres) where you can collect a pager. This enables the recovery nurses to contact you when your child's operation is finished.
- The pager works anywhere inside the hospital building. This therefore enables you to go visit the concourse near the main entrance of the hospital while your child is having their operation.
- If you would prefer to wait on the ward, you will be shown back there by the ward nurse who is looking after your child.

What happens in the recovery room?

- After the operation, the recovery nurses will page you when your child starts to wake in the recovery room. You can then come up to paediatric recovery and sit with your child.
- Your child may be very sleepy when you first see them or a little disorientated and tearful. Both reactions are completely normal.
- Due to the nature of the environment it is not appropriate to have siblings in the recovery room, but two adults are allowed.
- Your child will be attached to a monitor while they are in recovery and may be having some oxygen through a face mask. This is completely normal.
- Depending on the type of surgery, your child may be able to have a drink in recovery.
- They may have had some analgesia (pain killers) when they were asleep and will continue to have them when they are back on the ward as needed.
- Your child will stay in recovery until they are fully awake, although they can go back to sleep if they want to. Once your recovery nurse is happy that your child is as comfortable as possible your ward nurse will be called to collect him/her from recovery.
- Your child will then be taken back to the ward on their bed or cot by an orderly. If they are young and want to be carried back, that is fine.

For further information, please speak to your ward nurse.

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format:
01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Potete chiedere di ottenere queste informazioni in altre lingue, in stampato grande o in audiocassetta.

Italian

若你需要本信息的繁體中文、大字體或音訊格式的版本，請要求索取。

Cantonese

तमने आ माहिती बीछ भाषाओमां, मोटा अक्षरोमां अथवा सांभणी शकाय जेवा माध्यम
(ओडीओ इमेट)मां जेठनी छीय तो कृपा करीने पूछो.

Gujarati

تکایہ پرسیار بکہ نہ گہر نہ وزانیاریہت دہوی بہ زمانیکی تر . بہ بیٹی گہورہ یانیش بہ شیوہی دہنگ

Kurdish

آگر آپ کو یہ معلومات دوسری زبانوں میں، بڑے الفاظ کی اشاعت میں یا آڈیو ٹیپ پر درکار ہوں تو ہمارے مہربانی اس کیلئے درخواست کریں۔

Urdu



Addenbrooke's is smoke-free. Please do not smoke anywhere on the site.

For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS smoking helpline free, 0800 169 0 169

Document history

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